

What are OUR IMMIGRANTS WORTH in DOLLARS and CENTS?



In many circles throughout the country there is in progress a serious discussion as to the advisability of curbing the immigration flood. This naturally has led up to the question of the immigrant, his value or his menace, and his position in the social machine. The New York Herald has invited opinions on the subject, and presents the views of three men who may reasonably be said to have studied the situation. We reproduce them below:

By Sidney A. Reeve.

Former Professor of Riemann and Hydrostatics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Lecturer at Harvard. Current conversation and the periodical press are full of condemnation of our lax restriction of immigration. All the evils to which our country is heir are explained by the "undesirable horde" of aliens which is pressing into the land with ever increasing volume. The steady increase in criminality which has now become unquestioned is attributed to this "overflow" of the undesirables from the other countries, and these countries are accused of collusion with the steamship companies toward a promotion of the volume of immigration. That portion of our citizens which is interested in the labor market is in chronic rebellion against this influx of cheap labor, destined to compete upon an un-American basis with American labor. Those of us who are interested in purity of politics see in the inflowing torrent a current supply of corruptibles upon whose votes political machines may be reared and supported.

Upon every side arises this denunciation of immigration. Nor is it a recent phenomenon. Look up the literature of immigration, and you will find the decade of 1840-1850 supplying its quota of "hicks," in goodly proportion to what our increased population demands forth today. For 60 years we, as a nation, regardless of whether our continent yet contained undeveloped territory, as in 1847, or undeveloped possibilities, as in 1907, have been objecting strenuously to immigration.

Meanwhile, the immigration has been steadily increasing, except during the period of the civil war, and at the age of the 60 years we enjoy phenomenal prosperity.

There is an inconsistency here somewhere between the theories of the pessimists and the facts, and a big one, too.

What are the facts?

As to criminality, we can find none supporting the theory that in general immigration is of a criminal sort. Here and there may be found minor faults and blemishes on that side, it is true. The southern Italians, without question, are unusually illiterate and addicted to the settlement of differ-

ences by stiletto. We even identify the Italians roughly with the Black Hand system of blackmail. The south Italians are but a small fraction of all immigration; the class of crimes to which they are prone is a minor one in our criminal records; the black-mail extorted by the Black Hand is but a drop in the bucket compared with the volume of extortion currently practiced by American business men, within and without the law, against American-born victims.

Viewing the situation broadly, there is no decisive evidence pointing to the criminality of the average immigrant. There is much pointing to his superiority over the average native American to industry, sobriety and the patient toleration of adverse conditions without outbreak. Indeed, the most decided evidence on this point comes from Great Britain, which country complains that of all her immigrants the Americans are the most criminal, being three or four times as bad as the average of the rest and ten times as bad as the Poles and Hungarians.

We do not conclude from this too hastily that America is ultra criminal. But we quote it to signify that he who seeks statistical support for anti-immigration views, doing it in sincerity and breadth, is apt to meet, with sour comfort.

Standard of Immigrants.

Our own conclusions are that the vast majority of immigrants are slightly above our American standards in industry, sobriety and patient self-restraint, though they are undoubtedly below us in initiative. They come from countries where unceasing toll is the price of life, and where the get-rich-quick miracle is virtually unknown. In their fatherlands drunkenness is a minor crime, whereas in Great Britain and America it is a major one. And as to patience under conditions inviting to revolt, America is proud of standing first among all the non-Latin peoples of the temperate zones in her promptness to resent publicly, by the passive rebellion of the strike, if not by actual violence, the presence of conditions unnecessarily hard. Our complaint against the immigrants must be that they are too patient and submissive for American standards, rather than that they are too violent and resentful.

As to illiteracy, it is true that the immigrants are below our standard. What of it? Education is a thing of itself, neither conducive to nor antagonistic to morality and happiness. It may be a powerful tool to both. But it is often used as an equally powerful tool against both. Our educated classes are not always the happiest ones. One worst and biggest crook is the educated ones.

In short, a man is of value to a

country solely according to whether he produces more, of material or of morality, than he consumes. He may produce very little, yet if his wants are less than that little he is still a profitable investment for the nation. He may, on the other hand, apparently produce millions; yet if he consumes more than that, or if he undermines our standards of morality, or if he is found to produce actually much less than he apparently produces, he may be a great source of loss, in spite of his prominence and power.

The people understand this well. It is their habitual application of this new economic tripartite to men in the public eye which is now making millionaires so uncomfortable.

What is Immigration Worth?

To which class, then, belongs the average immigrant? Is he a producer or a dissipator of net wealth and morality? If the former, what is our immigrant worth, net, to the nation?

The law says that a dead male adult constitutes a loss of \$5,000 to his family. In this it strikes a rough average and draws no distinction of any sort between individuals. So it is hard to get at it in that way.

The average adult male immigrant (and half of our immigrants are of this sort) earns at least \$300 per annum soon after his arrival. Rather, that is what he is paid. My estimates have led me to state, elsewhere, that his actual productivity is from three to four times that amount, the balance going to pay the cost of doing "business" with what he produces and consumes. But the benefit of this doubt will be left, for the present, to the opposition.

The right will be reserved, however, to class all immigrants under this figure, for the majority of them have been here long enough to expand their income beyond \$300. That is to say, most of those who were classed as children at the time of entry are now adults. Of the women some are offset in their unproductivity by the men who earn more than \$300; the rest are producing more than that value in the form of children.

\$5,000,000,000 Per Annum.

During the last 20 years some 16,000,000 or 17,000,000 immigrants have arrived. The exact figure does not matter, for all we wish is an estimate of the number now alive and working, and many who came before 1887 are that. If these people are producing an average of \$300 worth of goods and children apiece their current productivity is now \$5,000,000,000 per annum.

This is 200 times as much as our new automobiles cost us last year. This enormous fund of current income we should have lost had we rigidly excluded immigration in 1887.

How much capital do these immigrants embody, not in their pockets or bank accounts, but in their strength of body and character?

Assume that out of the 17,000,000 aliens arrived since 1887 10,000,000 are now adult males. For each of these that you kill his family can collect from you, by law, \$5,000. He must be worth at least half that. That is to say, we have got from Europe during the last two decades, for nothing, a working machine which capitalizes at from 25,000,000,000 to 50,000,000,000.

This figure agrees fairly well with our estimate of the animal productivity of this great human machine. But the exactness of the figures does not matter. It is plain that, however they may be modified in detail, they will still remain enormous. Our crops have certainly been enormous of recent years, but it has already become plain that they cannot stand alone as an explanation of our remarkable prosperity. We not only grow hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of corn, wheat, and cotton at the cost of much labor each year, but we also import from another continent, without a cent of cost to ourselves, upward of a billion dollars' worth of human live stock per annum.

We do not hesitate to assign a solid value to every other form of live stock which the land needs for its working. Why should not our immigrants be figured as a similar asset?

By Robert Watson.

Commissioner of Immigration.

Public opinion is all wrong, or nearly so, upon many phases of the immigration question. With more than a million immigrants a year we cannot supply the urgent demands for labor. The army of workers adds enormously to the wealth and prosperity of the country.

It is not the scum of Europe we are getting, but the pick of the most earnest and hard-working of its population. As to the morality of the immigrants of today, it seems to me that it compares favorably with that of our native born population.

All this is not a matter of mere opinion or sentiment. It is borne out by the actual statistics. Mr. Reeve's figures, it seems to me, in some respects, understate the facts. He mentions \$300 a year as the earning power of these immigrants. As a matter of fact, these men will earn more, on the average, than a dollar a day. I think the figure may safely be increased by at least 50 per cent. Within a few days Mr. Charles Lorba, New York state commissioner of labor, came to me in search of men I could not supply. He estimated that New York state alone needed 100,000 men, to whom he would pay \$25 a month and board on the farms alone. Now, that does not look much like overcrowding or the impossibility of assimilating we hear so much about.

Of the million, or, to be exact, the

3,001,756, immigrants last year more than ten per cent. were over the age limit and a great proportion brought their wives. About 50 per cent. may be classed as workers. But in another sense they were all workers. There were no idlers, scarcely one who would shirk his duty. And as to their morality, the average is certainly good. These immigrants are placed upon a probation for three years. Should they get into trouble in this time they are liable to be deported. Last year there were for all causes less than 1,200 deported. I question if our native born population can show a better record.

The modern immigrant of today, it seems to me, is greatly misunderstood. We have a great deal of talk about the menace of the immigrant from the south of Europe. A few decades ago most of the immigrants came from Ireland, while Germany ranked second and Great Britain third. Italy and Russia sent comparatively few. Today the situation is practically reversed. Last year we received 267,000 from Italy, 192,000 from Russia and but 24,000 from Ireland and 30,000 from Germany. From Austria and Hungary some 292,000 reached our shores. It is unfair to say that the north of Europe is no longer represented. But are the immigrants from the southern countries dangerous or undesirable? The statistics of crime do not prove it. The Italian is a hard worker. We should remember that the Latin people were highly civilized when the north of Europe was peopled with savages. The southern countries may not have progressed of late, but the impulse is still there, and with unlimited opportunities of America before them who can tell what they may not accomplish in the future?

As to Pauper Labor.

A great deal of the misunderstanding is due to the use of that term pauper labor. I have estimated that every immigrant in coming to America spends on an average from \$50 to \$100 for transportation. This includes his fare from his home to the point of departure, the crossing of the Atlantic and the railroad fare to his destination. In other words, they spend upward of \$100,000,000 a year in search of work. Let us suppose, for sake of argument, that Russia suddenly held out great opportunities for money making so that Americans by the million were attracted there. It seems to me that 1,000,000 native born citizens might have some difficulty in raising \$100,000,000 for transportation. And in addition this army of incomers carried with them more than \$20,000,000 in cash.

There is, of course, urgent need of the restriction of immigration, but such restriction is already in force. The laws governing the situation are very rigid; they have been devised by intelligent men, familiar with the situation, working in sympathy with these people as well as in the best interests of the country. And the laws are being enforced. As the need for further restriction occurs it will receive due attention. Meanwhile the demand for laborers throughout the country is very urgent. The immigrants are adding hundreds of millions of dollars to the wealth of America, while they help themselves to a broader and more prosperous life.

By Emerson McMillan.
Chairman Conciliatory Committee of the Civic Federation.

Decidedly I favor an intelligent restriction of immigration on both our eastern and western seaboard. Without being an alarmist, I venture to say that the problem grows more difficult each year and must ultimately demand a solution. America has accomplished wonders in assimilating great hordes of immigrants from many different countries, but it is a very serious question how long at the present rate of increase she can continue to do so. Now it seems to me that when foreigners come to us in such numbers that they form separate and distinct communities, preserving their language and traditions intact, they constitute a menace. When such a colony is formed it is difficult to break up. Assimilation goes on very slowly.

As a rule, the immigrant of recent years differs from us widely in his ideas of morality, his attitude toward the law and in his general point of view. When we read of the violent crimes committed, the names are usually foreign. The Black Hand outrages, for instance, have doubtless been greatly exaggerated, but such as they are they are a foreign importation, and of very recent years.

It is undeniable, of course, that the coming of these millions of laborers has contributed much to the wealth and prosperity of the country. But should this army of workers be increased indefinitely? We have a population today in excess of 80,000,000 very active and alert people. It would seem that the natural resources of the country could be developed and the great business of the land carried forward very well with our present population and its natural increase. And I am not among those who have any fear of race suicide. The increase in the number of immigrants from year to year is astonishing. Can we continue to receive this army indefinitely without some day reducing our scale of income to that of Europe? Does it seem probable that the Slavs, the Russian Hebrews, the Slovaks, and others who are coming to us in such numbers today will in a few years have risen as have the Irish, and have become as good Americans? And if these foreigners with traditions and manners very different from ours are not assimilated, the problem becomes a very serious one.

BACK TO LONG AGO

OLD-TIME SCENE RECALLED BY MR. PAROKEYAL.

And Understanding, He No Longer Felt Aggrieved That He Had Sacrificed His Evening Smoke—Willing Victim.

"One evening at dinner in the latter part of May," said Mr. Parokeyal, "the wife asked me if I wouldn't like to go to the May services at church that evening—with her, of course. I caught her exchanging a glance across the table with our eldest boy, a tyke of ten, when she made the suggestion to me. Therefore said I to myself right away, it was a put up job."

"But there I was. No way to get out of it. I thought a bit aggrievedly of the comfortable, lolling smokes I miss if I went, and I experienced just a teeny touch of resentment over the rather smooth and serene way I was being chiselled out of 'em. But there was no way out."

"Why, certainly, mother, I'll go," said I, as hearty as I could make it, and then again I caught that significant exchange of glances between the boy and his mother, just as if they'd achieved some kind of a victory or other."

"Well, the boy executed his usual disappearance soon after dinner, and then, allowing me to burn up just one cigar, my wife began to hustle and bustle me around, and presently we were on our way to the May services. I had to grin a bit sheepishly as we drew nigh the portal."

"Fine work for you, little lady," said I to the boy's mother. "Do you know how many years it's been since I attended May evening services?"

"Please don't tell me," said she. "I don't want to hear. And don't ever say anything like that before the children—you know how they notice these chance remarks; and with that we were inside the cool, fragrant church and on our way up the center aisle to the pew."

"Well, well, what a long stretch of years that fragrance took me back across—that mingled fragrance of roses and drifting incense. Noticed it the minute I set foot within the church—first the smell of the roses that were heaped up on the main altar and on the side altar, and then, as we got inside, that other aroma of the incense. I declare that those two fused fragrances—and they go mighty well together, if you've ever noticed—just clean picked me up and set me back on the road a good 30 years, and a good bit of that road right hard going at that."

"The wife and I sat down in the pew, and I was listening to some of the old familiar May evening music, full of dim reminiscences, when the mother gave me a slight nudge."

"I turned and looked at her, and her eyes were shining mighty bright, sure enough. And she was nodding in the direction of the altar. I thought that she meant that she wanted me to stop looking around at the decorations and things and to pay attention to what was going on at the altar, and so I followed her gaze."

"Well, then I understood the meaning of that put up job between the boy and his mother."

"For there was the boy on the altar in surplice and cassock, at the right hand of the priest, at that. I understood, all right."

"When I turned to her again her eyes were still shining away like as if they'd—but, when it comes to that, I couldn't see her very well myself, for it all came a-ramping back to me in an instant that she looked just exactly, for all the world, like my own little mother had looked, away back yonder over the crazy path of the years, when she'd seen me diked out in cassock and surplice for the first time—for all the world and to the life! Same shining, starry eyes, same trembling around the corner of the mouth, same speaking pride of the features—the joy of the mother woman when she sees one of her own taking part for the first time in a rite at any kind of shrine!"

"That's why she'd got me out of my armchair to attend the May evening services. The conspiracy between her and the boy stood revealed. But I didn't feel aggrieved about those sacrificed smokes any longer!"

ALWAYS OVER THE HEART.

Policemen as a Rule Wear Their Badges as Shields.

Many persons are puzzled to know why policemen wear their badges so low on their coats, instead of on the flap made for that purpose. As a matter of fact, the badge or star, as he calls it, of many a policeman is right next to his heart. Some blue coats can thank their "stars" for being alive. This little metal shield has deflected the bullet of burglar or highwayman, and at times, too, has stopped the knife thrust of would-be assassins. During the last 20 or 30 years there have been many cases on record showing that the little badge has been a life saver. Even bullets fired at close range, as a rule, cannot penetrate the shield. That's why a bluecoat always feels safer in keeping the star at a vital spot. When off duty some policemen wear their stars on their vests, but always directly over the heart. They are so accustomed to the little protector that they feel uneasy without it.

METCALF IS HOME

Battle Ship Fleet Will Probably Start for the Pacific Soon.

Washington, Sept. 10.—Secretary of the Navy Metcalf's homecoming today has been awaited with considerable interest in Washington. He has just completed an inspection of the Pacific coast navy yards, and private shipbuilding properties and it is believed he will at once begin active preparations for despatching the Atlantic fleet to the Pacific and for its accommodation after arriving there.

NOTHING DOING

Bright Eyes Failed to Give Her Court Room Seance.

New York, Sept. 10.—There was nothing doing in the line of producing "Little Bright Eyes," "Red Light," "Anamata" or any other of the high class "inhabitants of the spirit world" in the supreme court in Brooklyn today. When May Scannell-Pepper-Vanderbilt, new wife of the aged Brooklyn "number merchant," whose children are desirous of having him declared incompetent to manage his wealth, left the stand Friday, she intimated that she might yet give a court-room seance for the benefit of the commission, and the sheriff's jury that is investigating her husband's sanity.

Consequently the court-room was packed when the fat, blonde medium took the stand today. But Mrs. Pepper-Vanderbilt did not "deliver the goods." Instead, she explained to the attorneys for her husband's daughters that a court-room is no place for spirit communication. The attorneys for the Misses Vanderbilt did not commure very much time with her. After she had again related the circumstances in connection with her first meeting with Vanderbilt, the case was adjourned. Summing up will take place this afternoon both sides having rested.

MYSTERY DEEPENS

Phillips Murder Becomes More Cloudy With Every Turn Made

Cleveland, O., Sept. 10.—In investigating the J. J. Phillips tragedy, detectives are bringing to light some remarkable evidence, which seems to deepen rather than throw light on the mystery. It is learned today that Phillips' personal safe in his office in the Clarence building was apparently burglarized a few weeks before Phillips was found dying.

This "burglary" is so similar to the one at Phillips' home the night of the tragedy that many of Phillips' friends are veering to the suicide theory again, and believe that he desired to be thought a burglar's victim and was the author of the disorder in his own home.

Phillips' administrators have learned that within two years Phillips lost \$1,000,000 in bucket shop speculation.

Requirements for a Nurse.
Dear Madame Merri—I am very anxious to become a nurse. Would you mind helping me a little? Must one fill out applications before entering a hospital? If so, where can they be obtained? What age is required before entrance to a hospital is allowed? Is a high school education required of a girl who enters a hospital? How many years must one spend in a hospital before graduating? Is a salary paid from the very beginning, and if so, what is the amount, please? If you will kindly answer all these questions you will greatly oblige,
GENEVIEVE.

In reply to this letter Madame Merri wishes to state that all these questions have been answered for her by one of the largest hospitals in the city of Chicago. About the same rules hold good in most institutions. Application must be made and the blanks are obtained from the superintendent of the hospital. Eighteen years is the age required and a high school course is required and in most instances the applicant must be a graduate. The course is three years and after two months' probation a salary of four dollars a month is paid to cover cost of uniform and books.
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